

REMARKSDISCUSSION OF SPECIFICATION

The section titled "Cross-Reference to Related Application" has been amended to include updated information. In particular, information regarding the abandonment of the related application has been included.

DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS

In the Office Action, claims 13 and 42 are objected to because of informalities.

In the Office Action, claims 9, 35-37, 39, 43, 44, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,819,662 to Heil, Jr. et al.

In the Office Action, claims 9, 35, 36, 38, 39, 43, 44, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,819,661 to Heil, Jr. et al.

In the Office Action, claims 10-12, 14, 40, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 4,819,662 to Heil, Jr. et al. as applied to claims 9 and 35 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,837,313 to Ding et al.

In the Office Action, claims 13 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 4,819,662 to Heil, Jr. et al. in view of Ding et al. as applied to claims 10 and 40 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,756,048 to Sano et al.

In the Office Action, claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 4,819,662 to Heil, Jr. et al. in view of Ding et al.

In the Office Action, claim 45 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, claims 43 and 44 have been cancelled and claims 9, 10, 13, 35, 42, 46, and 47 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 9-15, 35-42, and 45-47 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Preliminary Matter

In response to the objection of claims 13 and 42 because of informalities, the following amendments have been made as suggested by the Examiner: in claim 13, line 3, "silicone" has been replaced with --silica--; and in claim 42, line 2, "silicone" has been replaced with --silica--. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 9

For at least the same reasons for allowing claim 45, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 10-15

Claims 10-15 depend from claim 9 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 35

For at least the same reasons for allowing claim 45, it is respectfully submitted that claim 35 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 36-42

Claims 36-42 depend from claim 35 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 45

In the Office Action, claim 45 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 45 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 43 and intervening claim 44. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 45 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 46 and 47

Claims 46 and 47 depend from claim 45 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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